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*Thank You for more than
40 years of public service!*

People n the News



Monique Limón sworn in as President pro Tempore in California State

Senator Monique Limón was sworn in as the **50th President pro Tempore of the California State Senate**. **Senator Limón** is the first woman of color—and the first Latina—and first mother—to hold this leadership role in state government.

Senator Monique Limón was elected to the **Senate** in November 2020 and represents the **21st Senate District**, which includes **Santa Barbara County** and parts of **Ventura** and **San Luis Obispo Counties**. Before the **State Senate**, **Monique** served as the **Assemblymember** for the region.

Born and raised in the **21st district**, **Monique** has worked continuously to serve her community as an educator, leader, and an advocate for causes advancing the quality of life in her community. For **Monique**, education has always been a priority. A **UC Berkeley** graduate with a Master's degree from **Columbia University**, she spent fourteen years working in higher education at **UC Santa Barbara** and **Santa Barbara City College**.

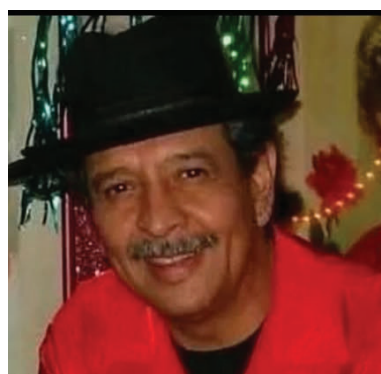


Dr. Maggie Rivas-Rodriguez to Retire from UT Austin

Dr. Maggie Rivas-Rodriguez is stepping down from her role as the director of the **Voces Oral History Center**, a position she has held for 27 years. Her retirement marks the end of an era for this nationally-recognized oral history center, which has collected over 1,800 oral history interviews and over 2,500 photographs, contributing significantly to the Latino experience in the U.S. and preserving the record for future generations.

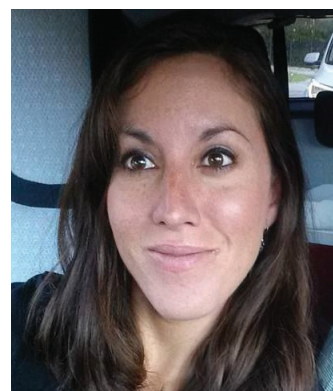
Dr. Rivas-Rodriguez's leadership has been instrumental in bringing greater diversity to the news media and has been recognized with the **Texas 10** award, an annual **Texas Exes** award honoring professors who leave a lasting mark on students. Her retirement is expected to be followed by a transition to **C.J. Alvarez**, who has been trained in **Voces** methodology and is excited about the opportunity to continue **Dr. Rivas-Rodriguez's** work.

Dr. Rivas-Rodriguez id originally from **Devine, Texas** and received her bachelor's degree from **U.T. Austin**, a Master's degree from **Columbia University** and her Ph.D from the **University of North Calorina at Chapel Hill**.



Johnny Ray Canales Passes Away in San Antonio, Texas

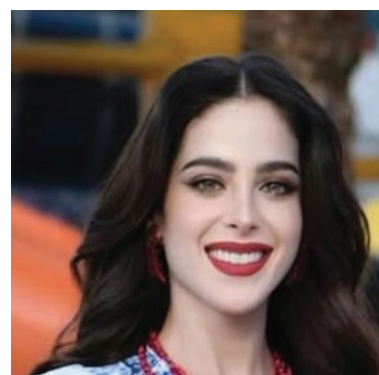
Johnny Ray Canales passed away in **San Antonio, Texas** on November 15th, 2025. He was born on June 24th of 2050 and attended public schools in **Uvalde, Texas**. Best known for leading the musical group **Zavala** in the 1970s, he toured the **United States** sharing his unique leyboard sounds with the world.



Cristina Tzintzun Ramirez Receives Award from YHPAA

One of the hardest working community activists in **Texas**, **Cristina Tzintzun Ramirez** was honored with the **Legacy Award** from **YHPAA - Young Hispanic Professionals of Austin** for her work over the years on behalf of the Latino community.

Her work bringing Latinos together to uplift their leadership and fund scholarships for deserving Latino students across **Texas** is so amazing. Some of her past work experience has included working with the **Worker's Defense Fund** and the community empowerment organization **JOLT**. **Cristina** is a graduate of **UT Austin**.



Fátima Bosch Fernández, a 25-year-old contestant from Mexico, Wins!

The 74th **Miss Universe** pageant took place on November 20, 2025, in **Bangkok, Thailand**. This year's event was marked by significant drama and controversy, including public bullying and allegations of vote-rigging. Despite these challenges, **Fátima Bosch Fernández**, a 25-year-old contestant from Mexico, was crowned the winner. She expressed her desire to change

the perception of what it means to be **Miss Universe**, emphasizing the importance of giving women a voice.

What is Miss Universe?

The **Miss Universe** pageant is one of the most prestigious beauty contests globally, alongside **Miss World**, **Miss International**, and **Miss Earth**. It is organized by the **Miss Universe Organization** (MUO), which is currently owned by **JKN Global Group** and **Legacy Holding Group USA Inc**. The pageant aims to promote humanitarian issues and empower women by providing a platform for them to share their stories and drive positive change.



Reanna Santos Competes in Miss Rodeo America in Las Vegas, Nevada

Reanna Santos, hija de mi primo, **Rudy Santos de Angleton, Texas** came in as First Runner up in the **Miss Rodeo America** competition.

A graduate of **Texas A&M** university with a bachelors degree and a masters degree in Rangeland Management Class of 2025), she has been active in outdoor activities all her life. She is also a graduate **Angleton High School** and attended **Brazosport College** before going off to **A&M**.

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Pensamientos

Bienvenidos to the last issue of **La Voz Newspaper** for 2025. This marks 20 years that we have been publishing **La Voz** in **Travis County** and distributing in 13 other counties. We of course wish to thank all of our advertisers for helping to make this publication possible.

For those wishing subscribe, send us a check for \$35.00 and we will mail a copy each month. As many of you know, the primary elections are coming up on March 3rd. These elections are important and I am sure you know the reason why. I am not going to beg people to come out and vote. This the 21st century, if you are reading these words, you know whats up. *Y si no? Pos ya sabes.*

Allow me to discuss a couple of the stories you will find in this issue. First off is the article by **Dr. Rogelio Saenz**. He makes some excellent points about the consequences regarding the decline in population growth. Here in **Austin, Texas** see some of those consequences with school closings. Now here is a question are we going to see a decline in transportation congestion?

Regarding the story on the life and times of **Travis County Commissioner Margaret Gómez**, if you read what she is saying she is telling you how she has campaigned over the years and raised money. After 40 years in public office, she knows what she is talking about.

Gracias.

EDITORIAL



**Alfredo Santos c/s
Editor & Publisher**



Holy Family
American Catholic Church
An Inclusive &
Compassionate
CATHOLIC community

Rev. Dr. Jayme Mathias
M.A., M.B. A., M.Div., M.S., Ph.D
Senior Pastor



9:00 a.m. English Mass at the Church
10:00 a.m. Breakfast in the Parish Hall
10:30 a.m. English Mass in the Chapel
12:00 p.m. Misa en español en la iglesia

9322 FM 812 Austin, Texas 78719
From Highway 183 going South, turn left onto FM 812
For more information: (512) 826-0280
Welcome Home!

A TODAS LAS PERSONAS Y
PARTES INTERESADAS:

Structural Metals, Inc. ha solicitado a la Comisión de Calidad Ambiental de Texas (TCEQ, por sus siglas en inglés) lo siguiente: Emisión del Permiso 8248

Esta solicitud autorizaría autorización continua de una acería ubicado en 1 Steel Mill Drive, Seguin, Condado de Guadalupe, Texas 78155. Información adicional sobre esta solicitud se encuentra en la sección de aviso público de este periódico.

No es muy temprano para prepararse
para la temporada de impuestos de 2026

IR-2025-116SP, 26 de noviembre de 2025

WASHINGTON — El Servicio de Impuestos Internos (IRS) anima a los contribuyentes a prepararse ahora para la próxima temporada de declaración de impuestos visitando IRS.gov/Prepárese para obtener consejos acerca de las novedades y lo que deben tener en cuenta antes de presentar su declaración. Este es el primero de una serie de recordatorios especiales del IRS para ayudar a los contribuyentes a prepararse a principios de 2026 para la próxima temporada de declaración de impuestos. Un poco de trabajo previo preparando la documentación y organizando la información ahora puede ayudar a presentar las declaraciones de impuestos de manera rápida y precisa.

Es importante que los contribuyentes se preparen ahora ya que la Ley de un Gran y Hermoso Proyecto de Ley (en inglés) el puede afectar significativamente los impuestos, créditos y deducciones federales. El IRS y el Departamento del Tesoro trabajan para implementar la legislación, incluyendo la difusión de información acerca de las nuevas deducciones tributarias, como la exención de impuestos sobre las propinas, las horas extras y los intereses de los préstamos para automóviles, la nueva deducción temporal para personas mayores y otros. El IRS publicará nueva información a medida que esté disponible.

Reúna y organice sus documentos tributarios
Tener sus documentos tributarios organizados ayuda a los contribuyentes a presentar declaraciones de impuestos completas y precisas, y a evitar errores que podrían retrasar sus reembolsos. Comience por reunir:

Información de su cuenta bancaria.
Formularios W-2 de su(s) empleador(es).
Formularios 1099 de bancos y otros pagadores.
Registros de transacciones de activos digitales.
Los contribuyentes deben esperar hasta que hayan recibido todos sus documentos tributarios para presentar su declaración. Mantener los documentos organizados también facilita la búsqueda de la información necesaria para reclamar deducciones o créditos.

Cuenta en línea del IRS

Una cuenta en línea del IRS permite a los contribuyentes acceder de forma segura a su información tributaria personal, incluidas las declaraciones presentadas recientemente. Mediante esta herramienta, los contribuyentes pueden:

Consultar sus registros tributarios, incluidos el ingreso bruto ajustado y las transcripciones.
Realizar, programar y consultar pagos.
Obtener o consultar su PIN de protección de identidad (PIN IP).
Autorizar a un profesional de impuestos a acceder digitalmente a sus registros tributarios.
Acceder a los formularios W-2 disponibles y a ciertos formularios 1099.
Acelere su reembolso de impuestos con depósito directo
El depósito directo es la manera más rápida de recibir su reembolso. Además, de acuerdo con la Orden Ejecutiva 14247 (en inglés), el IRS comenzó a eliminar gradualmente los cheques de reembolso de impuestos en papel el 30 de septiembre de 2025, lo que significa que la mayoría de los contribuyentes deben proporcionar sus números de ruta y de cuenta para recibir sus reembolsos directamente en sus cuentas bancarias.

Los contribuyentes sin cuenta bancaria pueden aprender a abrir una en un banco asegurado por la FDIC o a través de la Herramienta Nacional de Localización de Cooperativas de Crédito (en inglés). Veteranos pueden consultar el Programa de Banca para Beneficios de Veteranos (en inglés) para conocer opciones de servicios financieros en bancos participantes.

Tarjetas de débito prepagadas, billeteras digitales o aplicaciones móviles pueden ser compatibles con el depósito directo. Para usar estas opciones, los contribuyentes deben tener los números de ruta y de cuenta asociados a sus cuentas personales. Consulte con el proveedor de la aplicación móvil o la institución financiera para confirmar qué números usar.



An Immigrant Christmas

by Andrew “Andy” Hernandez

When it comes to which segment of the American electorate is most pro mass deportations the title has go to white evangelical Christians. In a 2024 survey, 75% of white evangelical protestants said they supported rounding up undocumented immigrants and putting them in militarized camps.

Which is curious given what the Bible has to say about immigrants.

One could argue the Bible does offer an immigration policy of sorts. In the book of Leviticus in chapter 19 verses 33-34 the Israelites are given the following immigration policy directive from God.

When an alien lives with you in your land, do not mistreat him. The alien living with you must be treated as one of your native born. Love him as yourself, for you were aliens in Egypt. I am the Lord your God. (NIV)

This immigration policy is dictated by the values of justice (do not mistreat...), love (love him as yourself...), and compassion (you were aliens...).

Apart from Native Americans who populated what is now the United States, everyone else who arrived here arrived as immigrants. We were aliens first.

Historically Americans have celebrated and honored their immigrant forefathers while opposing and being hostile to the immigrants in their midst; particularly when the immigrant culture or history is different from their own.

Even as America was being forged, Benjamin Franklin was very much opposed to German immigration to Pennsylvania, which he very much wanted to keep German free. In 1751 he wrote:

“Why should the Palatine boors be suffered to swarm into our settlements, and by herding together establish their own language and manners to the exclusion of ours? Why should Pennsylvania founded by the German, become a colony of aliens, who will shortly be so numerous as to Germanize us instead of us Anglifying them, and will never adopt our language and customs, any more than they can acquire our complexion”. (Observations Concerning the Increase of Mankind, 1751)

Now the descendants of these German immigrants say the same of Mexican and other Hispanic immigrants.

There is also an immigration story in the nativity accounts of Jesus’s birth: Mary, Joseph, and the baby Jesus are forced to flee into Egypt to escape King Herod who was determined to eliminate any future threat to his reign. By fleeing into, and seeking sanctuary in Egypt, a foreign land, they must be considered refugees. They had to cross the border, live in a foreign land, not knowing the language or culture, and were in all probably not fully welcomed by the native Egyptians. Egyptians would have, in all probability looked down on “their kind” as rough uncultured, and very wrong headed when it came to religion.

Fortunately, there was, as far as we know, no Make Egypt Great Again -M.E.G.A. movement in Egypt at the time. Had there been, Joseph, Mary, and Jesus might have been denied entry and sent back to Judea. The MEGA Egyptians would have been complaining about how Joseph, a carpenter by trade, was taking an Egyptian’s carpenter job as he supported his family the three years they lived in Egypt. And they would have resented how the Jews were always bringing up that whole “slavery thing” and their woke liberator, Moses. Afterall, the Jews did learn a skill-how to build pyramids.

Of course, all this is conjecture. What is not conjecture is that Jesus was a refugee and the Holy Family were migrants. Perhaps we would do well to remember that as we celebrate Christmas.



Andre Hernandez Reaches

Over a career of more than fifty years, Mr. Hernandez dedicated himself to advancing civic engagement, community empowerment, and leadership development across Texas and beyond.

Andrew “Andy” Hernandez is now retired and resides in his hometown of San Antonio, Texas.

Mr. Hernandez has been the recipient of numerous awards and recognitions including **Hispanic Business Magazine’s 100 Most Influential Hispanics** (1990), **The National Council of La Raza’s Hero Award** (1990), **The Willie C. Velasquez Institute’s Lifetime Achievement Award** (1994), and **The United States Hispanic Leadership Institute’s Lifetime Achievement Award** (2004).

He has recently received the **San Antonio Spurs Hispanic Leaders and Legacies Award** (2023), the **Southwest Voter Registration and Education’s Champion of Democracy Award** (2024), and the **Mexican American Legal Defense Fund’s Excellence in Community Service Lifetime Achievement Award** (2024).



Mrs. Nena Ramirez Makes it to 100!

QEPD

October 16th, 1925

November 25th 2025

**Taken from her obituary and
embelished by Alfredo Santos c/s**

Mrs. Nena Ramirez was born in **Uvalde, Texas** 100 years ago on October 16, 1925. She passed away on November 25th 2025 in **San Antonio**. The photo on the right was taken at her 100th birthday celebration in **San Antonio** at an **Italian Restaurant** called. **Mag-giano's Little Italy** with over 100 friends and family in attendance.

After graduating from **Fox Tech High School** in **San Antonio**, **Mrs. Ramirez**, her maiden name was **Hernandez**, returned to **Uvalde** and married **Baltasar Ramirez** on January 25, 1948. She received her **Bachelor of Science Degree** from **Our Lady of The Lake College** at the age of 38 as the mother of three young children in 1963. She received her **Masters of Science Degree** in counseling from **OLLU** in 1971. **Nena** was an educator all her professional life, she taught Spanish in middle school then high school in **Uvalde, Texas**.

In an interview a few years ago, she shared that she went ahead and changed her name legally to "**Nena**" since many people had come to know her as In an interview a few years ago, she shared that she went ahead changed her name legally to "**Nena**" since many people had come to know her as "**Nena**."

After the family relocated to **San Antonio** in 1970, she worked at **SAISD** and then **NISD** as an elementary school counselor working her last assignment at **Forest Hills Elementary**. After retiring in 1987 she continued to tutor students at **Forest Hills** for an additional 22 years.

Nena was a woman of faith and integrity. She valued education and created two scholarships at **SWTJC** in **Uvalde, Texas** in honor of her mother **Guadalupe Hernandez** and her husband **Baltasar L. Ramirez**, for older students seeking to advance in their education. **Nena** was an inspiration to many and encouraged support staff and several of her friends to obtain their college degrees and several became teachers.

Nena was a fabulous cook and a world traveler. She traveled throughout **Europe**, **Russia**, **Africa**, the



¿Quien son todos estos que vinieron a mi party?

Far East, South America, Australia, the **Holy Land**, and throughout the **United States**. She would travel with several of her friends on tours and even went solo three times. **Nena** at the age of fifty, and her friend **Ida** backpacked in **Europe** for three weeks, sleeping on trains with only their **AAA Tour** books and an adventurous spirit to guide them.

Nena has many friends and several she considers family. She will truly be missed. She was preceded in death by her parents, **Guadalupe Valle Hernandez** and **Elias Hernandez**; her husband **Baltasar Luna Ramirez**; and her siblings, **Ignacio Hernandez**, **Santiago Hernandez**, **Ernesto Hernandez**, **Elias Hernandez** and **Aurora Gutierrez**.

Nena is survived by her children. **Margot (Bobby) Fernandez**, **Romelia (Raul) Elizondo**, **John B. Ramirez**; four grandchildren and eight great grandchildren.

Visitation was on Wednesday, December 10th at 5:00pm with a Rosary to be recited at 7:00pm at the **Angelus Chapel**. Funeral Mass will be offered on Thursday, December 11th at 8:45am at **St. Luke's Catholic Church**. Interment will follow in **Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery**.



ABOVE: Mrs. Ramirez in 1967



ABOVE: Mrs. Ramirez, second from right was the Maid of Honor in the 1951 wedding of **John** and **Amalia Santos** in **Uvalde, Texas**. **Baltazar Ramirez** was the Best Man. On the ends are **Irene Tafolla (Castro)** standing next to **Nena Ramirez** and on the other side standing next to **Baltazar** is **Elia Rodriguez**, sister of the bride.



ABOVE: Friends for life, **Molly Santos**, one of the founders of **La Voz Newspapers** and **Mrs. Ramirez**. Photo taken in 2008 in **San Antonio, Texas**.



ABOVE: Children of **Nena Ramirez**: left to right: **Romelia**, **Margot** and **John Balta**. This photo was taken at **Mrs. Ramirez** 100th birthday party.

When we think of the people who have been activists and change agents in **Austin, Texas** over the years, names like **Garcia, Barrientos, Moya and Treviño** are what usually come to mind. We don't usually think of **Consuelo Mendez, Edna Canino, Amalia Rodriguez Mendoza** or **Margaret J. Gómez**.

Margaret J. Gómez, a woman who has not only blazed trails but who can point to a long record of being a change agent in **Austin, Texas** and **Travis County**. In point of fact, **Margaret Gómez** is the longest serving Hispanic elected official in the county having been first elected to public office in 1980.

The following interview was conducted in 1998, by **Dr. Jose Angel Gutierrez** while he was a professor at the **University of Texas at Arlington**. We have taken the liberty of pulling excerpts in order to maintain a flow while taking into consideration our limited space. (The actual interview is 61 pages long.) **Commissioner Gómez** was also interviewed by **Arnold Garcia** on June 26, 2015 in **Austin, Texas** for the **VOCES Oral History Project** at **The University of Texas at Austin**.

Dr. Gutiérrez: Let's start by asking when and where were you were born?

Commissioner Gómez: I was born in **Comal County** in **Kingsbury, Texas** which is right

outside of **San Marcos** on June 8th, 1944.

Dr. Gutierrez: I take it that **Kingsbury** is a rural area?

Commissioner Gómez: Yes. My parents were farm workers. On my father's side there were thirteen brothers and sisters in their family. After I was born he made the decision that he was going to move to **Austin**.

My father really believed in education and he wanted his children to have access to good schools. He only had a first grade education. My mother was a little luckier. She had three years of formal education and so they moved to **Austin**.

Dr. Gutiérrez: So your family made the move to the big city?

Commissioner Gómez: Yes. That was in 1944. I was three months old and so it must have been like September of 1944 when they moved to **Austin**.

My father went to work for an automobile dealership. He washed cars and learned how to fix them. As time went on we welcomed three brothers. My father finally decided to build a little house. He had saved enough money to build a house at 702 Jewel St..

Dr. Gutiérrez: Tell us about your grandparents.

Commissioner Gómez: My dad's parents came from **Mexico** in 1910 when the **Mexican Revolution** was in progress. They were fleeing that whole situation and they landed in **Hays County**.

My mother's family came from **Piedras Negras** and her family was also fleeing the revolution. They arrived in the same area. So, my mother and father's families knew each other.

Dr. Gutiérrez: Were you the first born?

Commissioner Gómez: I was the first to survive. Mother had lost three children prior to me and, so I was the first to survive. I have three brothers who are younger. We all went to school at **Becker, Homar, and Travis High School**.

Dr. Gutiérrez: Do you remember much about your early schooling or teachers?

Commissioner Gómez: My teachers were all Anglos. I do remember very distinctly that my language was very limited. I knew some English because I played with the kids in the neighborhood.

I remember once I didn't know what the word "picnic" was. And I'll never forget that. The assignment was to draw a picnic and I drew a horse. When the teacher looked at it she said *"That's not a picnic. Go ask the other kids what a picnic is."* Well we didn't do picnics in our family. I've never forgotten that because. . . I'll just leave it at that.

Dr. Gutiérrez: You said you went to **Travis High School**. What memories do you have of this time in your life?

Commissioner Gómez: I played a lot of volleyball and it was a lot of fun. I also played the violin in the sixth grade and played it from sixth through twelfth grades.

"I was a very good violin player!"

Dr. Gutiérrez: So, you are a good violin player?

Commissioner Gómez: I was a very good violin player!

Dr. Gutiérrez: Did you give it up?

Commissioner Gómez: I gave it up when I graduated from high school in 1962. I think one of the reasons I gave it up was because

The Margaret Travis County

I wasn't sure that it was going to make me any money. And so when I quit, I went to business college. After I finished I started my career with the state government.

Dr. Gutiérrez: Now who did you marry?

Commissioner Gómez: I married **David Gómez** from **Bryan, Texas**. And then we got divorced after a short time. He stayed over there and I came back home. In We were officially divorced in 1968.

Dr. Gutiérrez: Do you have any children?

Commissioner Gómez: Yes. One child came out of that marriage. She is thirty two years old and very independent.

Dr. Gutiérrez: What's her name?

Commissioner Gómez: **Maria Dolores Gómez**.

Dr. Gutiérrez: OK. Do you want to talk about that relationship?

Commissioner Gómez: Yes. It's a very good relationship. I'm very proud of her. After the divorce I came home and she was with me. We came back to my family's home where she grew up and she went to the same schools that I did.

Dr. Gutiérrez: When did you start to realize that things were changing around you?



Commissioner Gómez: I remember hearing about **Crystal City** in 1963 and what happened. I don't recall how it was that I heard but it was big news at the time. Then a couple of years later we heard that the farm workers were on the move. Actually what we heard was that they were marching from the **Rio Grande Valley** to **Austin**.

My dad was very excited about this and went down to **New Braunfels** to march with them. As I recall **Cesar Chavez** and his efforts to improve the conditions of farm workers made a lot of us realize that if the poorest of the poor were willing to stand up and demand better treatment, then those of us who lived in the urban areas could and should at least do the same. After the assassinations of **Martin Luther King, Jr.** and **Robert Kennedy** the country really woke up.

J. Gómez Story

Commissioner - Precinct # 4

GÓMEZ
MARGARET GÓMEZ · FOR RE-ELECTION
CONSTABLE, PRECINCT 4

Vote Demo • May 5, 1984



Pol. Adv. Pd. by Citizens for Gomez, Constable, Pct. 4, Texana Faulk
Conn, Treasurer, 1102 E. First St., 480-8219.

Then the Economy Furniture Strike here in Austin exploded and that really made a lot of people pay attention.

Then the **Economy Furniture Strike** here in **Austin** exploded and that really made a lot of people pay attention. By now I was involved in the campaign of **Buddy Ruiz** who was running for the **Austin City Council** in 1969. My awakening came over a period of time. I think a lot of us came of age during the later part of the 1960s but it was **Cesar Chavez** who showed us that if the farm workers could stand up, so could we.

Dr. Gutiérrez: There were some youth groups that got formed about this time here in **Austin**. Do you know anything about them?

Commissioner Gómez: Yes. **MASO** was one of those groups. It was based at **UT Austin**. **MAYO** also came out of **UT**.

Dr. Gutiérrez: Were you involved with any of them?

Commissioner Gómez: I was on the fringe because I was not going to **The University of Texas**, but I was involved in the community. Like I said, I began my activism by working on the **Buddy Ruiz for City Council** campaign.

Dr. Gutiérrez: So you dove right in?

Commissioner Gómez: Yes. I graduated from answering the phones and licking the envelopes to organizing, to getting out the vote, to registering voters, to walking the precincts. I guess I spent from 1969 till 1980 doing those kinds of activities. And then in 1980 the constable in **Precinct 4** talked about retiring. He was

a fourteen year incumbent. And so it just occurred to me one day that, you know, having worked for **Richard Moya** (Travis County Commissioner) for six years or seven and a half years, I said, *"I can do this job of constable."* So I ran some feelers in the community to see if I had support and Anglos, Mexican-Americans and Blacks said, *"Yeah, OK. Try it."*

Dr. Gutiérrez: Did the issue of being a woman come up?

Commissioner Gómez: It didn't come up at first. I took a leave of absence from my job and jumped into the campaign against a man named **Herbert Benner**. He said *"This job was no job for a woman!"* This is when it became an issue. And it flipped on him. He is the one who made it a campaign issue.

Dr. Gutiérrez: So, what was that campaign like? Here you are a seasoned pro, how did you whip him?

Commissioner Gómez: Well I did all those things that I had done for other people. I mean I had to organize volunteers, I had to walk precincts. I had to go out there and talk to people. And of course I was no stranger to them. They had seen me walk for everybody else and campaign for everybody else. So it didn't take a whole lot of money. It was a precinct race.

Dr. Gutiérrez: How much money did you spend?

Commissioner Gómez: I think I spent about eight thousand dollars.

Dr. Gutiérrez: How did you raise it?

Commissioner Gómez: Went to folks and asked them for mon-

ey. And then we had fund raisers. Looking back, my opponent handed the race to me by saying this was no job for a woman. I think "he won the race for me."

Dr. Gutiérrez: How bad did you beat him?

Commissioner Gómez: It was fifty five, forty five. (percent)

Dr. Gutiérrez: Not bad at all.

Commissioner Gómez: Yeah.

Dr. Gutiérrez: Almost a landslide.

Democratic Party Run-Off Primary Election 1994

Margaret J. Gómez	3,943	(55.96%)
Marcos de Leon	3,103	(44.04%)

SOURCE: Travis County Election Department

Commissioner Gómez: Yeah, they called it a landslide.

Dr. Gutiérrez: Now, you were both **Democrats**, so you won in the primary and had no opposition in November?

Commissioner Gómez: Had no Republican opposition.

Dr. Gutiérrez: But did you still campaign in November and raise more money?

Commissioner Gómez: Yes.

Dr. Gutiérrez: Then you ran for county commissioner?

Commissioner Gómez: Yes. By now **Richard Moya** had lost to **Hank Gonzalez** in 1986. Then **Gonzalez** lost to **Marcos de Leon** in 1990. I ran for **Travis County Commissioner Precinct # 4** for the first time in 1994 against **Marcos** and won in a Run-Off

Dr. Gutiérrez: What made you decide to go there from constable to commissioner? What were some of the factors?

Commissioner Gómez: I think that after thirteen years as constable and then my seven and a half years as an assistant to a commissioner, I had a real good feeling for county government. And also a very good feeling about the constituents and how I needed to reach them.

Dr. Gutiérrez: I understand you were also going to college while serving as a constable?

Commissioner Gómez: Yes. When I took office in 1981, I went back to college and I enrolled in **St. Edward's University** in the new college program. So while I was campaigning for that first term as constable, I got news from **St. Ed's** that I had gotten credit for thirty two hours. That

was for all of the experience I had acquired in the community on campaigns and everything.

Dr. Gutiérrez: You received a whole freshman year and you became a sophomore!

Commissioner Gómez: Yeah, it was a whole freshman year. And so then after that it took me about ten years to finish. Mainly because I had the full time job as constable. I would go to class in the evenings and they were very accommodating and that experience at **St. Edward's** was extremely positive. The counselors very helpful. They are very open especially to minority students.

Dr. Gutiérrez: So, what did you get your degree in?

Commissioner Gómez: I got my degree in sociology. I did a lot of coursework with criminal justice and received a well rounded education.

Dr. Gutiérrez: So, when did you graduate?

**Continued on
the next page**



Happy 91st. Birthday to Johnny Degollado!!



ABOVE: Sylvia Camarillo joins the many who are thanking **Margaret Gómez** for her many year of public service.

Thank you Margaret Gómez for more than 40 years of Public Service to the residents of Travis County



Paid political announ,ement by thye candidate





ABOVE: Travis County Commissioner Margaret Gómez never one to shy away from a microphone especially when Mariachi music is present.



Commissioner Gómez: I graduated in 1991.

Dr. Gutiérrez: Did you do the ceremony and all?

Commissioner Gómez: I did it all. And I graduated summa cum laude.

Dr. Gutiérrez: All right.

Commissioner Gómez: So it was an extremely positive experience.

Dr. Gutiérrez: Nothing about going back to school as an older person right? So now you have to be serious.

Commissioner Gómez: Yeah. I think I was really serious because I knew how important it was to connect what I was studying to what I was doing.

Dr. Gutiérrez: OK. So you are about to become the first **Mexican-American** woman "again?" **MASSO - The Mexican American . . .**

Commissioner Gómez: Yes!

Why did you run against de Leon?

Dr. Gutiérrez: Why did you run against **de Leon**? What were the issues?

Commissioner Gómez: Well, I don't think I ran because I just wanted the power or the headaches. I believed that I could be more effective in trying to do a little bit more for **Precinct 4**. That's why I ran.

Dr. Gutiérrez: Let me ask you about the difference in political style between men and women.

Commissioner Gómez: OK.

Dr. Gutiérrez: Do women "do politics" differently than men? Let me re-phrase that question. Do Chicanas "do politics" differently than Chicanos?

Commissioner Gómez: Well it's an interesting question because it's been raised before here

in **Travis County**. There are a number of **Mexican-American** women currently holding public office. We've been elected to county treasurer, the district clerk, county court at law judge, school board, the **Austin Community College** board, Justice of the Peace and county commissioner.

Now with respect to Chicanos vs. Chicanas, I guess the style that men have is more to the point when it comes to policy making. With them there is no beating around the bush.

Whereas with women, they tend to be better listeners, they try to understand the various aspects of what is being discussed. Not that we cannot be confrontational. So I guess it comes down to personal style. I really don't know. I was hoping that you could help clarify that issue for me.

Dr. Gutiérrez: Well no, it's your interview. We can talk about this later.

Commissioner Gómez: OK.

Dr. Gutiérrez: In your race for county commissioner, did you borrow money for the campaign?

Commissioner Gómez: No. I did not. I just went to see all those old friends who had asked me to think about running for commissioner and I said, "OK, I thought about it and now I'm here. Can you help? What can you do to help me?"

I also did the fundraising and the sponsorships. You know, "Can you sponsor me for a thousand dollars? Can you sponsor me for five hundred, two fifty, a hundred or whatever you can do?"

Dr. Gutiérrez: Now, is this a specific kind of fundraising?

Commissioner Gómez: Yes.

Dr. Gutiérrez: What's the difference between that and a contribution?

Commissioner Gómez: Well, the sponsorships are up front money and very public. For example, I'm going to have this margarita and mariachis fundraiser at **Limon's Restaurant**. "Will you be a sponsor for a thousand dollars?" And their names are displayed for everyone to see coming into the event. We also sell tickets at twenty five dollars for those folks who can't do the big sponsorships.

*I usually have another type of event called a fish fry at **Rabbit's** where we'll charge three dollars and fifty cents a ticket and then sell the hell out of those tickets.*

This is more of a contribution. I usually have another type of event called a fish fry at **Rabbit's** where we'll charge three dollars and fifty cents a ticket and then sell the hell out of those tickets. We print up a bunch of tickets and assign them to everybody who is helping on the campaign. "You're in charge of twenty five tickets. Sell them and get us the money. Be sure and get your people there." We have wonderful fish fries and those are for the regular folks, those who can't afford to contribute twenty five dollars or the ten dollars can afford three fifty. And they can afford to bring their kids.

Dr. Gutiérrez: Well, this suggests something, and I mean, I hope you don't take offense, but as a constable, you are kind of on the low end of the elected officials. But now you are running for a big time county commissioner position. Now you are at the top end of elected officials...

Commissioner Gómez: I understand what you are saying.

Dr. Gutiérrez: Now you are competing with even bigger ones that are countywide or area wide.

The Margaret

RE-ELECT MARGARET
GÓMEZ
Constable, Precinct 4
"An Honest Public Servant!"
VOTE DEMO • MARCH 10, 1992



Commissioner Gómez: Yes indeed.

Dr. Gutiérrez: There is the district clerk, county clerk, county attorney, county judge, etc.

Commissioner Gómez: Yes, I understand what you are alluding to. We are moving up the chain so to speak. But I want everyone to know that I am as serious as a heart attack about my commitment to the people that I hope to serve as county commissioner. We're not playing checkers anymore, this is chess!

Dr. Gutiérrez: Did you coalesce with those eight or nine women or a few other Mexican men? Or did you still work with your own coalition? How can you stop from tripping over each other? I mean, everybody is having fund raisers, everybody is hitting up the same

people that sell twenty five tickets. How do you work that?

Commissioner Gómez: It's called getting organized. I did get in touch with the other **Mexican-American** women office holders and told them I'm going to have a fund raiser on this date. So we tried to coordinate our schedules so that we don't have conflicts. We also got on the Democratic Party calendar so that every other elected official or candidate who's thinking of having a fundraiser could see what we already had planned. And, so yeah, there's some coordination going on about that.

Dr. Gutiérrez: How about in terms of volunteers? Do you all share the same ones? Do you all run on a slate?

Commissioner Gómez: No, we

J. Gómez Story

I want everyone to know that I am as serious as a heart attack about my committment to the people that I hope to serve as county commissioner. We're not playing checkers anymore, this is chess!

don't run any slates. A long time ago **Travis County** folks decided that we were not going to ever support slates.

Dr. Gutiérrez: What happened?

Commissioner Gómez: I think sometime in the sixties or seventies some bad experiences occurred and there was some backlash, not only to the people supporting the slate, but to some of the people who were on the same slate.

So, some of the candidates and political operatives of the day decided afterwards to do away with slates and that has been the tradition in **Travis County** since.

Dr. Gutiérrez: Was that around the same time as when **Jim Hightower** and **Mattox** and **Richards** and all of them ran kind of a slate? At least statewide they did.

Commissioner Gómez: Probably statewide. But it was never like that locally. It is true that we attend many endorsement events together during the campaign but each of us runs our own campaign.

Dr. Gutiérrez: Are those endorsements any good?

Commissioner Gómez: Well I suppose they are. I don't know that we'd want to take a chance on not getting any of the endorsements. And, so you know it may not be everything, but why take a chance?

Dr. Gutiérrez: How about the actual use of the media? As a constable, did you use print cards?

Commissioner Gómez: Yes.

Dr. Gutiérrez: How about newspaper ads or radio? I assume that you didn't do any TV. .

Commissioner Gómez: No, no. TV was much too expensive.

Dr. Gutiérrez: How about when you ran for commissioner? How did all that change?

Commissioner Gómez: In the race for county For commissioner TV ads were still too expensive for our campaign. Also the problem with TV is that it goes all over the place, even beyond our precinct. So it is not really very practical or cost-effective.

Dr. Gutiérrez: So what did you rely on in terms of communication?

Commissioner Gómez: We went with direct mailers to reach targeted voters.

Dr. Gutiérrez: Do you buy that?

Commissioner Gómez: Yes. I mean, that has now grown into an industry where people are identified. People who vote in every **Democratic** primary, in every **Republican** primary, everybody are identified and tracked And, so that has really grown into a business.

Dr. Gutiérrez: How about yard signs? Did you use them?

Commissioner Gómez: Yes.

Dr. Gutiérrez: Bumper stickers?

Commissioner Gómez: Yes. We had both small ones and large ones.

Dr. Gutiérrez: Did Moya print them?

Commissioner Gómez: Bumper stickers? No.

Dr. Gutiérrez: He printed some early *Raza Unida* stuff.

Commissioner Gómez: Oh really?

Dr. Gutiérrez: Yes. I don't think he wants to admit to that, but he did. Did you do any Spanish language radio?

Commissioner Gómez: Spanish language radio? Yes.

Dr. Gutiérrez: By yourself or did your opponents?

Commissioner Gómez: By myself.

Dr. Gutiérrez: What did you say or how did you pitch the message?

Commissioner Gómez: It's just, "I'm Margaret Gómez. Then I recalled how I've been with the community since 1969." I've done it all. I've worked for other people. I've answered the phones. There was never a task too little to be beneath me. I've walked. I've registered. I've gotten the vote out. I go to church with you. I shop with you. I went to school with you, and with your kids.

Dr. Gutiérrez: OK.

Commissioner Gómez: "I'm here. I've always been here and I will always be here."

Dr. Gutiérrez: Newspaper ads?

Commissioner Gómez: No. Those are very expensive.

Dr. Gutiérrez: E-mail, WEB page?

Commissioner Gómez: We did some and probably will do more in the future because it depends on where the voters are. If they are on the WEB page, we need to be on the WEB page.

Dr. Gutiérrez: So in 1998 you run again for your **Travis County Commissioner** position. Did you draw an opponent?

Commissioner Gómez: Yes. **Richard Moya** decided to run against me.

Dr. Gutiérrez: The person you used to work for?

Commissioner Gómez: The person I used to work for.

Dr. Gutiérrez: The guy who first ran for **Travis County Commissioner** back in 1970? This **Richard**?

Commissioner Gómez: Yes, that **Richard Moya**.

Dr. Gutiérrez: What brought that on?

Commissioner Gómez: Well, he said that I was ineffective. That I wasn't bringing enough resources to Precinct 4, projects and things like that. And so we talked about that on the campaign trail. And I think the voters decided to keep me.

Dr. Gutiérrez: Were you surprised that he did that?

Commissioner Gómez: I was surprised he ran.

Dr. Gutiérrez: Did you talk to him?

Commissioner Gómez: I asked him about it. And I think two weeks prior to the rumor getting out that he was going to run against me, we had talked on the phone and we had stayed in touch about issues and what needed to

get done. And he was helping me. I had asked him to help me find some land for a, a **Metropolitan Park** in **Precinct 4**. And I thought he was working on that, and then, I heard he was going to run. So much for communication.

Dr. Gutiérrez: Maybe you didn't ask him the right questions and maybe he didn't tell the full truth.

Commissioner Gómez: It could be.

Dr. Gutiérrez: OK. So it was head on?

Commissioner Gómez: Yeah. So it was head on.

Dr. Gutiérrez: And how bad did you beat him?

Commissioner Gómez: I'm trying to remember here. It was sixty forty.

Dr. Gutiérrez: Wow! That's a landslide.

Commissioner Gómez: Yeah.

Dr. Gutiérrez: Money. How much money did it cost this time?

Commissioner Gómez: It cost me fifty thousand. It looks like it's not going to ever get over fifty thousand to run.

Dr. Gutiérrez: That's still formidable. Same formula? Law firms?

Commissioner Gómez: Same formula.

Dr. Gutiérrez: Sponsorships?

Commissioner Gómez: Yeah. Except that he cut in on me a little bit with the law firms. He's got some friends, you know, who have been very loyal to him. And they stuck with him. And I talked to them anyway and I said I, I understood, you know, you've been friends a long time, but if there's ever a chance that, that you can help me, I, I certainly want that help. And, so now I have a Republican (opponent) for the first time ever in **Travis County**.

Comisión De Calidad Ambiental Del Estado De Texas



AVISO DE LA SOLICITUD Y DECISIÓN PRELIMINAR PARA EL PERMISO DEL SISTEMA DE ELIMINACION DE DESCARGAS DE CONTAMINANTES DE TEXAS (TPDES) PARA AGUAS RESIDUALES INDUSTRIALES RENOVACIÓN

PERMISO NO. WQ0001822000

SOLICITUD Y DECISIÓN PRELIMINAR. Vencorex US Inc., 6213 East Highway 332, Freeport, Texas 77541, que opera Vencorex US, una instalación que fabrica derivados de poliisocianato alifático y productos asociados, ha solicitado a la Comisión de Calidad Ambiental de Texas (TCEQ) la renovación del Permiso del Sistema de Eliminación de Descargas de Contaminantes de Texas (TPDES) No. WQ0001822000, que autoriza la descarga de purga del clarificador, agua de intercambio iónico, retroceso de filtro de arena, sumideros de área/lecho de carbón, purga de torre de enfriamiento, purga de caldera, aguas residuales domésticas tratadas y aguas pluviales con un flujo diario promedio de efluente que no excederá 125,000 galones por día mediante el Punto de Descarga 001; y aguas pluviales de forma intermitente y variable mediante el Punto de Descarga 002. TCEQ recibió esta solicitud el 5 de abril de 2024.

La instalación se encuentra en 6213 East Highway 332, cerca de la Ciudad de Freeport, en el Condado de Brazoria, Texas 77541. Este enlace a un mapa electrónico de la ubicación general del sitio se proporciona como cortesía pública y no forma parte de la solicitud o aviso. Para la ubicación exacta, consulte la solicitud.

<https://gisweb.tceq.texas.gov/LocationMapper/?marker=-95.361111,28.991111&level=18>

El efluente se descarga desde la planta mediante los Puntos de Descarga 001 y 002 hacia el Canal de Efluentes "A" de Dow Chemical, luego hacia el Río Brazos Marea en el Segmento Núm. 1201 de la Cuenca del Río Brazos. Los usos designados para el Segmento Núm. 1201 son recreación de contacto primario, suministro de agua pública y uso acuático alto. La parte superior del segmento tiene una designación de suministro de agua pública que no aplica para este permiso. El Director Ejecutivo de TCEQ ha completado la revisión técnica de la solicitud y ha preparado un borrador del permiso. El borrador del permiso, si se aprueba, establecería las condiciones bajo las cuales la instalación debe operar. El Director Ejecutivo ha tomado una decisión preliminar de que este permiso, si se emite, cumple con todos los requisitos legales y regulatorios. La solicitud del permiso, la decisión preliminar del Director Ejecutivo y el borrador del permiso están disponibles para ser consultados y copiados en Free-

port Branch Library, 410 North Brazosport Boulevard, Freeport, en el Condado de Brazoria, Texas. La solicitud, incluidas actualizaciones y avisos asociados, está disponible electrónicamente en:

<https://www.tceq.texas.gov/permitting/wastewater/pending-permits/tpdes-applications>

COMENTARIOS PÚBLICOS / REUNIÓN PÚBLICA. Usted puede enviar comentarios públicos o solicitar una reunión pública sobre esta solicitud. El propósito de una reunión pública es brindar la oportunidad de presentar comentarios escritos u orales o hacer preguntas sobre la solicitud.

El propósito de una reunión pública es dar la oportunidad de presentar comentarios o hacer preguntas acerca de la solicitud. La TCEQ realiza una reunión pública si el Director Ejecutivo determina que hay un grado de interés público suficiente en la solicitud o si un legislador local lo pide. Una reunión pública no es una audiencia administrativa de lo contencioso.

OPORTUNIDAD PARA UNA AUDIENCIA DE CASO IMPUGNADO. Después de la fecha límite para los comentarios públicos, el director ejecutivo considerará los comentarios y preparará una respuesta a todos los comentarios públicos relevantes y materiales, o significativos. **La respuesta a los comentarios, junto con la decisión del director ejecutivo sobre la solicitud, se enviará por correo a todos los que enviaron**

comentarios públicos o que solicitaron estar en una lista de correo para esta solicitud. Si se reciben comentarios, el correo también proporcionará instrucciones para solicitar una audiencia de caso impugnado o reconsiderar la decisión del director ejecutivo. Una audiencia de caso disputado es un procedimiento legal similar a un juicio civil en un tribunal de distrito estatal.

PARA SOLICITAR UNA AUDIENCIA DE CASO IMPUGNADO, USTED DEBE INCLUIR EN SU SOLICITUD LOS SIGUIENTES DATOS: su nombre, dirección, y número de teléfono; el nombre del solicitante y número del permiso; la ubicación y distancia de su propiedad/actividad con respecto a la instalación; una descripción específica de la forma cómo usted sería afectado adversamente por el sitio de una manera no común al público en general; una lista de todas las cuestiones de hecho en disputa que usted presente durante el período de comentarios; y la declaración "[Yo/nosotros] solicitamos una audiencia de caso impugnado". Si presenta la petición para una audiencia de caso impugnado de parte de un grupo o asociación, debe identificar una persona que representa al grupo para recibir correspondencia en el futuro; identificar el nombre y la dirección de un miembro del grupo que sería afectado adversamente por la planta o la actividad propuesta; proveer la información indica-

da anteriormente con respecto a la ubicación del miembro afectado y su distancia de la planta o actividad propuesta; explicar cómo y porqué el miembro sería afectado; y explicar cómo los intereses que el grupo desea proteger son pertinentes al propósito del grupo.

Después del cierre de todos los períodos de comentarios y de petición que aplican, el Director Ejecutivo enviará la solicitud y cualquier petición para reconsideración o para una audiencia de caso impugnado a los Comisionados de la TCEQ para su consideración durante una reunión programada de la Comisión. La Comisión sólo puede conceder una solicitud de una audiencia de caso impugnado sobre los temas que el solicitante haya presentado en sus comentarios oportunos que no fueron retirados posteriormente. Si se concede una audiencia, el tema de la audiencia estará limitado a cuestiones de hecho en disputa o cuestiones mixtas de hecho y de derecho relacionadas a intereses pertinentes y materiales de calidad del agua que se hayan presentado durante el período de comentarios.

La Comisión otorgará solamente una audiencia administrativa de lo contencioso sobre los hechos reales disputados del caso que son pertinentes y esenciales para la decisión de la Comisión sobre la solicitud. Además, la Comisión sólo otorgará una audiencia administrativa de lo contencioso sobre los asuntos que fueron presentados antes del plazo de vencimiento y que no fueron retirados posteriormente. **Si ciertos criterios se cumplen, la TCEQ puede actuar sobre una solicitud para renovar un permiso para descargar aguas residuales sin proveer una oportunidad de una audiencia administrativa de lo contencioso.**

ACCIÓN DEL DIRECTOR EJECUTIVO. El Director Ejecutivo puede emitir la aprobación final de la solicitud a menos que se presente una solicitud de audiencia de caso impugnado oportunamente o una solicitud de reconsideración. Si se presenta una solicitud de audiencia oportuna o una solicitud de reconsideración, el Director Ejecutivo no emitirá la aprobación final del permiso y enviará la solicitud y la petición a los Comisionados de la TCEQ para su consideración en una reunión programada de la Comisión.

Comisión De Calidad Ambiental Del Estado De Texas

AVISO DE LA SOLICITUD Y DECISIÓN PRELIMINAR PARA EL PERMISO DEL SISTEMA DE ELIMINACION DE DESCARGAS DE CONTAMINANTES DE TEXAS (TPDES) PARA AGUAS RESIDUALES INDUSTRIALES

RENOVACIÓN

PERMISO NO. WQ0001822000

LISTA DE CORREO. Si envía comentarios públicos, una solicitud de una audiencia de caso impugnado o una reconsideración de la decisión del Director Ejecutivo, se le agregará a la lista de correo para que esta solicitud reciba avisos públicos futuros enviadas por correo por la Oficina del Secretario Oficial. Además, puede solicitar ser colocado en: (1) la lista de correo permanente para un nombre de solicitante específico y número de permiso; y/o (2) la lista de correo para un condado específico. Para ser colocado en la lista de correo permanente y / o del condado, especifique claramente qué lista(s) y envíe su solicitud a la Oficina del Secretario Oficial de la TCEQ a la dirección a continuación. **Todos los comentarios públicos escritos y las solicitudes de reunión pública deben enviarse a la Office of the Chief Clerk, MC 105, TCEQ, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, TX 78711-3087 o electrónicamente a <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/comment> dentro de los 30 días a partir de la fecha de publicación de este aviso en el periódico.** **INFORMACIÓN DISPONIBLE EN LÍNEA.** Para obtener detalles sobre el estado de la solicitud, visite la Base de Datos Integrada de los Comisionados en <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/cid/>.

Busque en la base de datos utilizando el número de permiso para esta solicitud, que se proporciona en la parte superior de este aviso. **CONTACTOS E INFORMACIÓN DE LA AGENCIA.** Los comentarios y solicitudes públicas deben enviarse electrónicamente a <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/comment>, o por escrito a Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Office of the Chief Clerk, MC-105, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087. Cualquier información personal que envíe a al TCEQ pasará a formar parte del registro de la agencia; esto incluye las direcciones de correo electrónico. Para obtener más información sobre esta solicitud de permiso o el proceso de permisos, llame al Programa de Educación Pública de la TCEQ, sin cargo, al 1-800-687-4040 o visite su sitio web en <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/agency/decisions/participation/permitting-participation>. Si desea información en español, puede llamar al 1-800-687-4040.

Más información puede obtenerse de Vencorex US Inc. en la dirección indicada o llamando al Sr. Artin Karamian, Gerente General y Vicepresidente de Operaciones, al (979) 238-8631.

Emitido: 9 de octubre de 2025





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Susana Almanza Reflects

Daniel Llanes & I are grounded in the roots of Mother Earth. As **PODER** organizers, we acknowledged that the land we meet on belongs to the traditional territory of numerous Indigenous peoples. We honored, thanked the Indigenous peoples, & gave gratitude & respect to the history of our indigenous land.

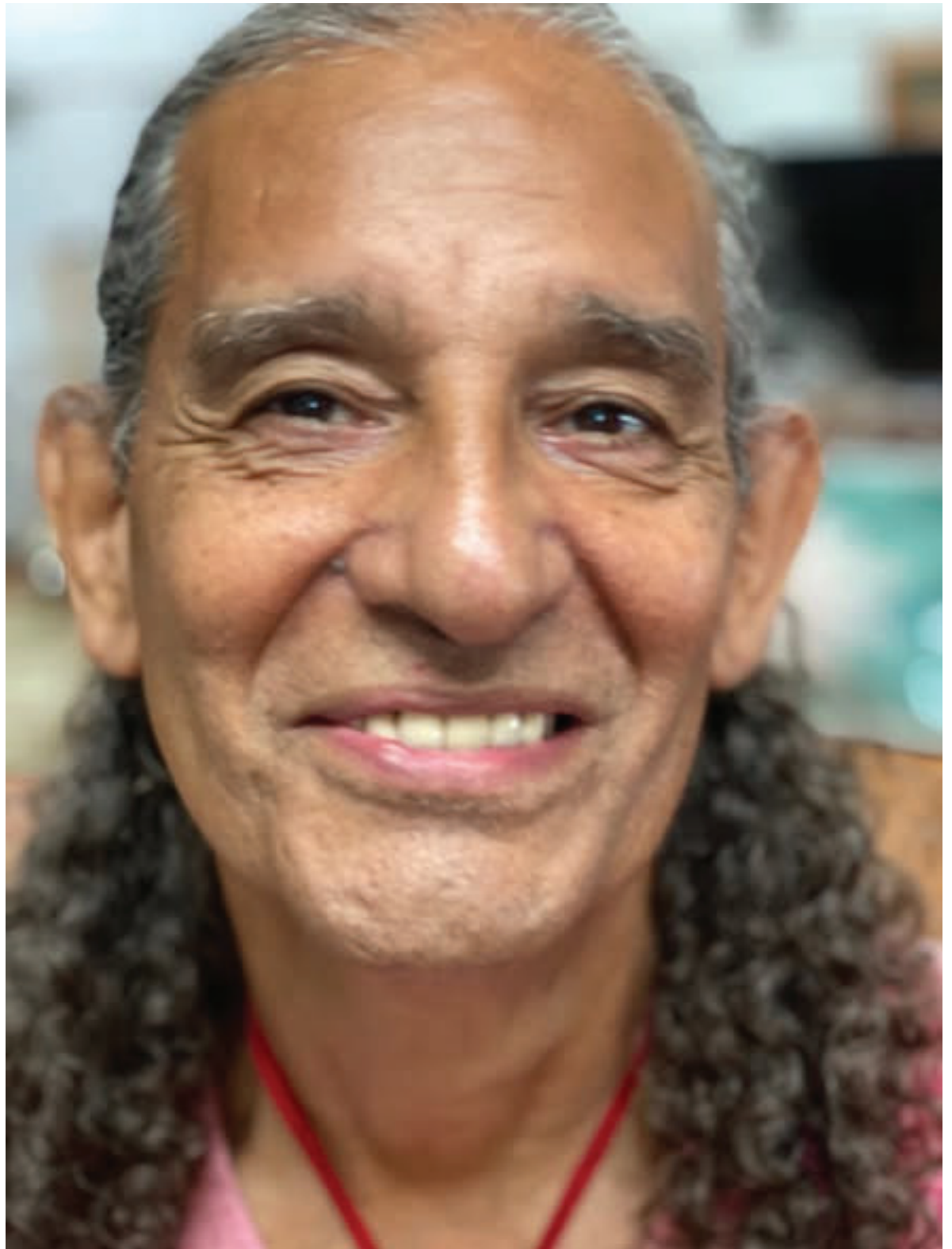
Daniel & I were conchero danzantes honoring our cultural & spiritual identity & preserving our ancestral traditions of honoring Mother Earth & the cardinal points. We understood that being a danzante involved walking on a path with the community to achieve justice. We recognized that our major struggle was a land struggle & a struggle to end environmental racism.

Together we challenged the colonization of our neighborhoods. We fought to close & relocate some of the most hazardous facilities that were threatening the health of the people & their environment. While we experience many challenges, we also achieved many victories. These victories lifted the strength & unity of people of color.

In **East Austin** residents lived & children attended schools adjacent to hazardous facilities. Facilities that emit chemicals that could cause cancer & other health problems. The placing of hazardous facilities in communities of color was recognized as environmental racism. In addressing environmental racism & the land struggle, we organized and/or formed neighborhood associations to challenge the **City of Austin's** neighborhood plans for **East Austin**.

After two years of working on a neighborhood plan for **Govalle/Johnston Terrace Neighborhood** area & challenging the **City of Austin**, we made history! One of our great victories was getting the **Austin City Council** to approve the re-zoning of over six hundred properties in the **Govalle/Johnston Terrace Neighborhood Plan** from industrial to less intense uses compatible with residential areas in March 2003.

Daniel and I, along with **PODER** members & allies have never stopped organizing for the betterment of our communities. **PODER** is thankful for the many issues, projects and programs that **Daniel** dedicated his time & energy to. The spirit of **Daniel Llanes** lives in all of us. I am honored and blessed to have had **Daniel** in my life in the struggle for justice.



Daniel Llanes

Daniel Llanes

Remembering Daniel Llanes: A Kindred Soul and Community Leader

A Life Dedicated to Social Justice and the Arts

by Alicia Perez Hodge

Daniel Llanes was truly a kindred soul—a *camarada*, *amigo*, and comrade. He dedicated his life to the pursuit of social justice, expressing himself as an artist, dancer, poet, author, and community organizer. Daniel was also a loyal friend, well known in Austin as a musician and dancer by the time I arrived in 1990. His passion and commitment to **East Austin**, the Latino community and to protecting the earth and its resources were always evident in his actions and character. **Daniel** was one of the founders of the **Cesar Chavez March** celebrated every March in **Austin, Texas**.

Proud of his indigenous heritage, **Daniel** actively worked with **PODER** and **Susana Almanza** to teach and preserve native traditions. His devotion to community and culture was a fundamental part of his identity.

A Friendship Rooted in Shared Experience

About twelve years ago, I had the opportunity to learn more about **Daniel**, and our friendship grew stronger. We became comrades through our involvement with Austin **Raza Roundtable** and our shared commitment to social justice. After a lively discussion at one of our meetings, **Daniel** approached me and remarked, *"You talk like the people I grew up with. You sound like my aunts and neighbors from San Antonio. It kinda makes me feel at home."* I replied that I grew up in the barrios of **Corpus Christi**, and so, we spoke the same language. We both smiled, acknowledging in that moment that we were kindred spirits—sharing culture, heritage, and a common cause.

Daniel and I shared more than similar political views, we both were raised by grandparents and without the presence of a father. We spoke about those old wounds and through those shared experiences we grew to recognize each other as members of the same tribe, the same family. **Daniel**, you are irreplaceable. Your memory and legacy will live on through all who knew and loved you.

Vaya con Dios Hermano.

Carmen D Llanes Shares the Following:

Daniel Llanes took his place among the stars and became an ancestor on December 4th. At 6:45 PM, he took his final breaths, as **Orion** rose above his head in the western skies, across from a bright full moon in the East. He died as he lived, with fascination and fearless insistence, instructing those around him as he made his transition.

Daniel was born March 5th, 1949 in **Yanaguana** (San Antonio), **Texas**. He moved to **Austin** in the late 60s, and was best known as a dancer, musician, curandero, community organizer, environmental & social justice advocate, teacher, mentor, tío, and loving father to his own daughter and many tribal sons and daughters.

He is preceded in death by his mother, **María Magdalena Llanes Rodriguez**, as well as his tías **Isabella**, **Ventura**, **Margarita**, and **Lucy**, and his tío **Rey**. He is survived by his daughter, **Carmen Dolores Llanes**, his sister, **Graciela Rojas**, and a myriad of nieces, nephews, and primos-hermanos: play cousins who became lasting figures in his family life.

He is also survived by countless community brothers and sisters, like **Susana Almanza**, who carry on his legacy of organizing and caring for the beautiful "Emerald City," as he called this place.

A celebration of life will take place early in the new year. In loving memory of **Daniel**, donations can be made to **GAVA** and **PODER**, two organizations he was endlessly proud of and dedicated to lifting up for community organizing efforts, as well as a dedication to treating employees—and the community members they serve—with care and dignity.

<https://goaustinvamosaustin.org>

<https://poderaustin.org>



ABOVE: **Bertha Rendon Ortiz** and **Daniel Llanes** outside of the **Resistenci Book Store** in **Austin, Texas**

Bertha Rendon Ortiz is with Daniel Llanes

I had the privilege to have met you in our journey in life at the age of 16 years old. **Daniel Llanes** Thank you for your mentorship in activism, advocacy in injustices and in cultural preservation in our communities in Austin TX.

#Eastaustinbarriorun Many individuals in our barrios were empowered by you we were strengthened by your music your poetry & your passion for the fight.

At times we were in the battle field fighting for the same cause we were always territorial the warrior that lives in us....

Thank you for teachings us about our indigenous ancestors and the beauty of nature & Dance We will always remember you

Con Paz y Amor ~

Comisión De Calidad Ambiental De Texas



AVISO DE RECIBIMIENTO DE LA SOLICITUD E INTENCIÓN DE OBTENER RENOVACIÓN DEL PERMISO DE AIRE (NORI) NÚMERO DE PERMISO 8248

SOLICITUD. Structural Metals, Inc. ha solicitado a la Comisión de Calidad Ambiental de Texas (TCEQ, por su siglas en inglés) la renovación del permiso de calidad del aire número 8248, que autorizaría la continuación del funcionamiento de acería situado en 1 Steel Mill Drive, Seguin, en el Condado de Guadalupe, Texas 78155. Este enlace a un mapa electrónico de la ubicación general del sitio o de la instalación se ofrece como cortesía pública y no forma parte de la solicitud o del anuncio. Para conocer la ubicación exacta, consulte la solicitud. <https://gisweb.tceq.texas.gov/LocationMapper/?marker=-98.029877,29.581019&level=13>. La instalación existente está autorizada a emitir los siguientes contaminantes atmosféricos: monóxido de carbono, contaminantes atmosféricos peligrosos, óxidos de nitrógeno, compuestos orgánicos, material particulado, incluido el material particulado con diámetros de 10 micrómetros o menos y de 2.5 micrómetros o menos, plomo y dióxido de azufre.

Esta solicitud se presentó a la TCEQ el 10 de octubre de 2025. La solicitud estará disponible para su visualización y copia en la oficina central de la TCEQ, en San Antonio oficina regional, y la biblioteca publica de Seguin, 313 West Nolte Street, Seguin, en el Condado de Seguin, Texas a partir del primer día de la publicación de este aviso. El expediente de cumplimiento de la instalación, si existe, está a disposición del público en San Antonio, oficina regional de la TCEQ. La solicitud (cualquier actualización inclusive) está disponible electrónicamente en la siguiente página web: <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/permitting/air/airpermit-applications-notice>.

El director ejecutivo ha determinado que la solicitud está administrativamente completa y llevará a cabo una revisión técnica de la misma. La información contenida en la solicitud indica que esta renovación del permiso no supondrá un aumento de las emisiones permitidas ni dará lugar a la emisión de un contaminante atmosférico no emitido anteriormente. **La TCEQ puede actuar sobre esta solicitud sin buscar más comentarios del público o dar la oportunidad de una audiencia de caso impugnado si se cumplen ciertos criterios.**

COMENTARIOS DEL PÚBLICO. Puede presentar comentarios públicos a la Oficina del Secretario Oficial en la dirección indicada a continu-

ción. La TCEQ considerará todos los comentarios del público al elaborar una decisión final sobre la solicitud y el director ejecutivo preparará una respuesta a esos comentarios. Cuestiones como el valor de la propiedad, el ruido, la seguridad del tráfico y la zonificación están fuera de la jurisdicción de la TCEQ para ser tratadas en el proceso de permiso.

OPORTUNIDAD DE UNA AUDIENCIA DE CASO IMPUGNADO. Puede solicitar una audiencia de caso impugnado si usted es una persona que puede verse afectada por las emisiones de contaminantes atmosféricos de la instalación tiene derecho a solicitar una audiencia. Si solicita una audiencia de caso impugnado, deberá presentar lo siguiente (1) su nombre (o, en el caso de un grupo o asociación, un representante oficial), dirección postal y número de teléfono durante el día; (2) el nombre del solicitante y el número de permiso; (3) la declaración "[Yo/nosotros] solicitamos una audiencia de caso impugnado"; (4) una descripción específica de cómo se vería/n afectado/s por la solicitud y las emisiones atmosféricas de la instalación de una manera no común al público en general; (5) la ubicación y la distancia de su propiedad en relación con la instalación; (6) una descripción del uso que usted hace de la propiedad que puede verse afectada por la instalación; y (7) una lista de todas las cuestiones de hecho controvertidas que presente durante el periodo de comentarios. Si la solicitud la realiza un grupo o asociación, deberá identificarse con nombre y dirección

física a uno o varios miembros que estén legitimados para solicitar una audiencia. También deben identificarse los intereses que el grupo o asociación pretende proteger. También puede presentar sus propuestas de ajustes a la solicitud/permiso que satisfagan sus preocupaciones.

El plazo para presentar una solicitud de audiencia de caso impugnado es de 15 días a partir de la publicación del anuncio en el periódico. Si la solicitud se presenta a tiempo, el plazo para solicitar una audiencia de caso impugnado se ampliará a 30 días después del envío de la respuesta a los comentarios.

Si se presenta a tiempo cualquier solicitud de audiencia de caso impugnado, el Director Ejecutivo remitirá la solicitud y cualquier solicitud de audiencia de caso impugnado a los Comisionados para su consideración en una reunión programada de la Comisión. A menos que la solicitud se remita directamente a una audiencia de caso impugnado, el director ejecutivo enviará por correo la respuesta a los comentarios junto con la notificación de la reunión de la Comisión a todas las personas que hayan presentado comentarios o estén en la lista de correo de esta solicitud. La Comisión sólo podrá conceder una solicitud de audiencia de caso impugnado sobre cuestiones que el solicitante haya presentado en sus comentarios a tiempo y que no hayan sido retirados posteriormente. **Si se concede una audiencia, el objeto de la misma se limitará a las cuestiones de hecho controvertidas o a las cuestiones mixtas de hecho y de derecho relativas a los problemas de calidad**

del aire pertinentes y materiales presentados durante el periodo de comentarios. Cuestiones como el valor de la propiedad, el ruido, la seguridad del tráfico y la zonificación quedan fuera de la jurisdicción de la Comisión para ser tratadas en este procedimiento.

LISTA DE CORREO. Además de presentar comentarios públicos, puede solicitar que se le incluya en una lista de correo para recibir futuros avisos públicos sobre esta solicitud específica enviando una solicitud por escrito a la Oficina del Secretario Oficial en la dirección que figura a continuación.

CONTACTOS E INFORMACIÓN DE LA AGENCIA. Los comentarios y solicitudes del público deben presentarse vía electrónicamente en www14.tceq.texas.gov/epic/eComment/, o por escrito a la Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Office of the Chief Clerk, MC-105, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087. Tenga en cuenta que cualquier información de contacto que proporcione, incluyendo su nombre, número de teléfono, dirección de correo electrónico y dirección física, formará parte del registro público de la agencia. Para más información sobre el proceso de tramitación de permisos, favor de llamar al Programa de Educación pública de la TCEQ sin costo al 1-800-687-4040, o bien visitar su sitio web, www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/pep. Para información en español, favor de llamar al 1-800-687-4040. También es posible consultar oportunidades de participación pública en nuestro sitio web, www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/participation.

También se puede obtener más información de Structural Metals, Inc., P.O. Box 911, Seguin, Texas 78156-0911 o llamando a Mr. Randall Walker, el Manejador de la División Central Ambiental al (830)372-8507.

Fecha de emisión del aviso: 13 de noviembre de 2025



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ELECTION DAY:
TUESDAY, MARCH 3, 2026

VOLUNTEER CONTACT:
EMAIL: RAZAGAVINO1@GMAIL.COM
TEXT: (512) 477-7512

DEMOCRAT
TRAVIS COUNTY
COMMISSIONER
PRECINCT 4



CAMPAIGN TREASURER MICHAEL JAMES PEREZ

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